



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

home of Platonic and Neoplatonic studies. But he had doubtless made acquaintance with the conceptions of Plato before he went to Cambridge, at the school in Hawkshead. Indeed, the earliest allusion to Plato in Wordsworth is the earliest there could be. It is, in fact, his first literary allusion of any sort, being found in the *Lines Written as A School Exercise at Hawkshead, Anno Aetatis 14* (School Ex. 5 ff.) :

While thus I mused, methought before mine eyes
 The Power of Education seemed to rise;
 Not she whose rigid precepts trained the boy
 Dead to the sense of every finer joy;
 Nor that vile wretch who bade the tender age
 Spurn Reason's law and humor Passion's rage;
 But she who trains the generous British youth
 In the bright paths of fair majestic truth:
 Emerging slow from Academus' grove
 In heavenly majesty she seem'd to move.

LANE COOPER.

Cornell University.

DEFINITIONS WANTED

While working on an edition¹ of the Middle English *Death & Liffe*, in collaboration with Professor J. H. Hanford, I have met with many difficulties in determining the meaning of certain passages in the poem. These difficulties are of two kinds: those occasioned by the presence of rare words in the poem, and those incidental to a study of the effect of the revisions and emendations made by editing copyists. Some of the most important of these difficulties are here presented in the hope that students of Middle English will be able to make suggestions as to the meaning or occurrence of rare words and to criticise the tentative suggestions offered in these notes.

(1) *bine*.

but if thou blinn of *that bine*. thou buy must full deere;
 they may wary the weeke, *that euer* thou wast formed, 254-255.

The Hales-Furnivall edition of the Percy Folio MS. suggests no meaning for *bine*. I have found only one other occurrence of the word in Middle-English, *Floris and Blauncheflur*, Trentham MS. 1010,

Blanche flour seide byne,
 be gilt of our dedes in moyne.

Byne is obviously an adverb here. If it is *býne*, it may be connected with O. N. *beinn*, 'direct,' 'straight,' *nu beint*, 'just now.' But the rime *byne* : *moyne* (mine?) points rather to *býne*. Could

¹ *Studies in Philology* (Univ. of North Carolina), July, 1918.

this word be connected with O. E. *būn*, M. E. *boun*, *bowne*, the unlauted from of which would be M. E. *bīne*, *bȳne* < O. E. **bȳn* < **būni*? This possibility is unfortunately not supported by the further occurrence of such a word in Old or Middle English. If we regard *bīne* as a late writing for *bene*, 'well,' the passage in *Floris* would still be left unexplained, for this meaning does not fit the context of the passage quoted above.

(2) *boolish*.

there ouer *that* oste. Estward I looked
into a boolish banke. the brightest of other, 57-8.

Skeat says: "Perhaps 'tumid,' 'swelling,' 'rounded.' Thus *bole* in l. 32 from Old English *bolne*, to *swell*; see Partenay, s. v. *bolned*. Cf. 'The flax was *bolled*. Bible.'" ² *Boul*, *bowl*, *bool* are common verbs in Middle English, but I have not been able to find *boolish*. The meaning 'rounded' would rather be derived from connecting the word with O. E. *būgan*, 'bend,' 'curve,' dialect English *bowl*, *bowle*, 'curve,' 'crook.' The meanings 'swollen,' 'tumid,' would connect the word with O. E. *bolne*, as Skeat suggested.

(3) *breuelye*, *breemlye*, *breenlye*, or *breitlye*?

Death says to Liffe:

thy blisse is my bale. breuelye of others, 283.

Percy ³ suggested that this word should be *bremely*, as in line 365. Furnivall ³ queries the word as *breuely*, 'briefly.' I do not feel that this meaning fits the context perfectly. Nor does Percy's reading give a satisfactory explanation. This word in the MS. is almost identical in form with *breuelye*, or *breenlye*, in line 365,

thou hast blowen thy blast. *breemlye* abroad.

Breemlye in the text is an emendation, for Furnivall's note says that he reads the MS. as *breenlye* or *breitlye*. There is no dot for the *i* in the MS.; the word is therefore *breenlye* or *breuelye*, not *breitlye*. It is impossible to decide with certainty whether the word is *bremely* in both passages, as Percy suggested; whether it is *breuely*, *breuelye*, 'briefly,' in one or both lines; or whether we have *breenlye*, an unrecorded word.

(4) *leake*.

& thou lett them of their leake. with thy lidden turnes, 249.

Percy's note refers to *lake* in line 301. Furnivall connects both of these words with O. E. *lāc*, 'play,' 'sport,' and implies that they are merely variant spellings of the same word. O. E. *lāc* appears in Middle English as *lāc*, *lāk(e)*, *layke*, *laik*, *leik*. I have not been

² Hales-Furnivall edition of Percy Folio MS. III, 58, note 9.

³ *Op. cit.*, III, 68, note 5.

able to find the spelling *leake* for this word, however, in Bradley-Stratmann, in the *N. E. D.*, or in any of the *E. E. T. S.* glossaries.

(5) *sayed*.

in my seate where I sate. I sayed a sleepe,
lying Edgelong on the ground. list all my seluen, 36-37.

Since the expression *said* (*sade*) *asleep*, 'sound asleep,' occurs frequently in Middle English, it is possible that *sayed* is the preterit of *M. E. sade*, 'to become heavy,' < *O. M. sadian*.

(6) *vuulye, vunlye*.

methought walking *that* I was. in a wood stronge
vpon a great Mountaine. wheer Mores were large,
that I might see on euerye side. 17 miles . . .
parkes and Pallaces. & pastures ffull many,
all the world full of welth, vuulye to behold, 39-45.

"Forte *winlye*, i. e. pleasantly, jucunde. Lye."—Percy. "View-lye"?—Furnivall. The MS. may be read as *vuulye* or *vunlye*. It is impossible to decide whether the third letter is *u* or *n*.

(7) *winne*.

all the world full woe. winne to behold, 140.

"Winn, woe to"?—Percy. "The word *woe* is the difficulty; may it be *A. S. wo, woh*, in the original sense of *bent, inclined*? Or rather, it's put for *wo[d]e mad*. *Winne* is joy, pleasure."—Skeat. Is *woe* an adjective, like *woe*, 'sorry' in *The Bruce*? Is *winne* a noun or an adverb?

J. M. STEADMAN, JR.

The University of North Carolina.

MOLIÈRE AND CORNEILLE

The opening lines of Thomas Diafoirus's first speech in *le Malade Imaginaire*, II, 5, are commonly given as a possible imitation of Cicero. Thus a note in the edition of Despois and Mesnard, following those of Moland (1884) and of Auger (1825), reads: "Thomas Diafoirus connaît ses auteurs. . . et il les met à contribution. Ce début . . . semble imité d'un passage du discours de Cicéron *ad Quirites post reditum*: A parentibus, id quod necesse erat, parvus sum procreatus: a vobis natus sum consularis. Illi mihi fratrem incognitum qualis futurus esset dederunt: vos spectatum et incredibili pietate cognitum reddidistis."

These commentators go too far afield. There is another author whose work contains a passage resembling that of Molière quite as closely, and with whom Molière was more familiar. This author is Corneille. Before writing *le Malade*, Molière had parodied Cor-